

# **BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION OF JASPER COUNTY**

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 8, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Joseph Arzillo; Vice Chairperson Pamela M. Williams; Mr. Rodney Catterton; Ms. Carrie Fair; Mrs. Regenia Scott; Mr. John Kemp; Mrs. Denise Davidson and the Director Ms. Jeanine Bostick.

**ABSENT:** Mr. Carl Tyler.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Arzillo.

**INVOCATION:** Vice Chairperson Williams.

Pledge Allegiance by all.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motioned by Mr. Kemp and seconded by Mrs. Scott to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 9, 2017:** Motioned by Mrs. Scott and seconded by Vice Chairperson Williams to approve the minutes from the last Board meeting. Discussion: Mrs. Davidson asked why were we going into Executive Session. Chairman Arzillo explained to discuss the selection process of Poll Workers. Motion carried unanimously

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Milton Woods re: Audio Taping.** Mr. Woods gave his opinion of why the Board should continue with the audio taping and videoing of meetings. Mr. Woods stated to the Board that when handling complaints to respond to each individual complainant with some type of resolution.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: RE: Election Matters.** Motioned by Vice Chairperson Williams and seconded by Mrs. Scott to go into Executive Session to discuss Election Matters. (6) Yes – Chairman Arzillo; Vice Chairperson Williams; Mr. Kemp; Ms. Fair; Mrs. Scott and Mr. Catterton. (1) Oppose – Mrs. Davidson. Motion carried. Chairman Arzillo stated no action was taken while in Executive Session. It was motioned by Vice Chairperson Williams and seconded by Ms. Fair to return out of Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously. The Board will meet Monday, March 12, 2018 – 12 noon to discuss; review and select poll workers for the upcoming 2018 Primary Election.

**OLD BUSINESS: Office Assessment and Security (Ms. Bostick, Director):** The Director stated per the request of former Board Member, Mr. Crosby the Jasper County Sheriff Department was asked to conduct a security assessment of the Voter Registration Office. Lt. Byrd stated in his letter, due to the location of our office, near a mental health facility and near a disabilities and specials needs facility, the security of our office should be a concern at all times and not just during election operations. Lt. Byrd primary concern was the sliding glass window in the reception area. Lt. Byrd recommends adding a secure, non sliding window with a slot at the bottom. Lt. Byrd stated the rear entry to the building is poorly secured and the deadbolt can be defeated with very little effort. Lt. Byrd also stated that staff members should not have to leave their work area to open the front entrance door; Lt. Byrd recommends installing an electronic type door that can be controlled by staff. Lt. Byrd recommended to further secure our office area and control access from the lobby would be to add a deadbolt to the door between the two areas and add two cameras to our current video system, one with a clear view of the front door and one covering the area around the rear entrance.

**OLD BUSINESS: Office Assessment and Security (Ms. Bostick, Director), Cont'd.:** The Director stated a copy of Lt. Byrd's recommendations were sent to County Council; the County Administrator; the IT Director and the Public Works Director.

**Handling of Complaints (Mr. Kemp):** Mr. Kemp distributed to the Board at the last meeting a guideline on handling complaints. Mr. Kemp read Mrs. Davidson suggested objective to be added to the guideline: **(to improve competence of the Board and the election office through deliberative action)** Several Board Members voiced their concerns of the wording of the suggested objective. Chairman Arzillo stated the Board will take a vote on the matter at the next meeting.

**Ad for Voter Registration Drive (Ms. Fair):** Ms. Fair stated she would like to see an ad put in the local newspapers and on the local radio stations advertising voter registration drives and announcements of upcoming elections. Ms. Fair offered a motion for the Board to consider during primary elections placing a full page ad or half page ad in our local newspaper and in addition a fifteen seconds radio ad on selected radio stations to remind the public of upcoming elections and registration deadlines. Motion seconded by Vice Chairperson Williams. Per Chairman Arzillo the discussion of this motion will be addressed at another meeting. The Director stated the State requires that each County places a Notice of Election sixty days prior to any election and that ad is ran twice, two weeks apart. Chairman Arzillo asked Ms. Fair had she had the opportunity to get a cost for a radio announcement ad for the Board to review and determine if funds are available.

**Ballot By Mail (Ms. Fair):** Ms. Fair would like the Board to consider discussing with County Council the possibility of Ballot By Mail only at those precincts with low voter turnout. Chairman Arzillo read the motion presented by Ms. Fair. "Motion for the Board to consider supporting the ballot by mail as a voting solution due to low voter turnout as a pilot program with the understanding this proposal has to go through a process with a possible referendum". Motion seconded by Mr. Kemp. Chairman Arzillo stated the discussion of the motion will be at another meeting.

**Audio Taping / Video Recording of Board Meetings (Mrs. Scott):** Mrs. Scott offered a motion to discontinue audio taping and video recordings of our meetings. Mrs. Scott stated the State recommendation to all counties are to not tape or record your Board meetings, also if someone wanted to speak at the meetings their name and subject should be placed on the agenda. Mrs. Scott stated that Chris Whitmire of the State Election Commission responded and stated we should not be doing this. Chairman Arzillo stated he would like to get the opinion of the County Attorney. Mrs. Davidson had to leave and asked to be excuse from the meeting. Mr. Kemp motioned to postpone the discussion until the next meeting, seconded by Ms. Fair. (5)Yes; Mr. Kemp; Mrs. Davidson; Ms. Fair; Chairman Arzillo and Mr. Catterton; (2)Oppose; Mrs. Scott and Vice Chairperson Williams.

**Agenda Public Comments(Mrs. Scott):** Mrs. Scott motion, to speak at our Board meetings your name and subject would be placed on the meeting agenda. Mr. Kemp amended the motion to limit public comments to two minutes if you were speaking on a topic on the agenda and anything not on the agenda you would need to call the office and asked to be placed on the agenda and your topic of discussion would be listed as well and the individual will be given a time to address the Board, there was no second to the amended motion, motion failed. Original motion was seconded by Ms. Fair, (3)Yes; Mrs. Scott; Ms. Fair and Vice Chairperson Williams; (3)Oppose; Chairman Arzillo; Mr. Kemp and Mr. Catterton. Motion tied.

**NEW BUSINESS: Discussion of the City of Hardeeville Election Expenses:** The Director shared with the Board the necessary expenses needed to conduct the Hardeeville election. The Board agreed to have the Director send those list of expenses to the County Attorney to be added to the ordinance to the City of Hardeeville.

**Discussion of Special County Council Robertsville Township Election:** Chairman Arzillo had an emergency and had to be excused. Vice Chairperson Williams resumed with the meeting. The Director informed the Board due to the passing of Councilmen Theodus Drayton there will be a Special Election held to fill the seat and complete the remaining term of office. The primary will be held May 15<sup>th</sup>; if necessary the run-off will be May 29<sup>th</sup> and the special election will be July 17<sup>th</sup>. The Director informed the board letters and applications have been sent to the poll workers on our mailing list asking if they are available to work the special election.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** The Director reminded the Board of the upcoming primary workshop to be held April 26, 2018 in Columbia, 9:30am until 4:00pm.

Total registered voters as of February 25, 2018: 19,007 totals dropped by 208, due to annual purge of voter registration system, to remove those voters that are deceased or those voter that have moved out of the county.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** None.

**BOARD ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** None.

**TOPIC(S) FOR DISCUSSION FOR NEXT MEETING:**

- Ms. Fair Motion: Voter Registration Drive Ad
- Ms. Fair Motion: Ballot By Mail
- Mrs. Scott Motion: Taping of Meetings
- Mr. Kemp Motion: Handling of Complaints

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business motion to adjourn by Ms. Fair, second by Mrs. Scott. The meeting adjourn at 6:44p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanine M. Bostick, Director

cc: File; Board Members; Mr. Andy Fulghum, County Administrator; Judy Frank, Clerk of Council and Jasper County Delegation.